Railway train for T.V. Serial

*438. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for preparing the T.V. Serial "Yatra"—its producer Shri Shyam Benegal was provided with ten bogies for 50 days;

(b) if so, on what terms and conditions;

(c) whether the train was provided without any charges; if so, the reasons therefor and the expenditure incurred by Government thereon; and

(d) whether such facilities are provided by the Railways to the producers of the other similar T.V. Serials also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) It was felt by the Railway Administration that it would be desirable to request an eminent film maker to produce a T.V. serial with the back-drop of Indian Railways thereby bringing out the nature of duties performed by the workers in this massive organisation and the role that the Railways play as the life line of the Nation and in bringing people together, thus serving national integration. In this connection a request was made to Shri Shyam Benegal who agreed to do so. A special departmental train was run for this purpose. No other remuneration was paid to Shri Shyam Benegal by the Railways for making the film. As far as the expenditure incurred in the running of this train is concerned, no separate account for expenditure as such on individual trains is maintained.

(d) When films are produced at the request of the Railway administration, facilities for shooting at station premises and in trains etc., are extended free of cost.

Review of working of national book trust

*439. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a study team of the Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad to review the working of the National Book Trust of India;

(b) if so, the details of the report if any submitted, and the details of the observations made and recommendations accepted by Government;

(c) whether Government have implemented all the recommendations made by the study team; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) A study team of the Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad conducted a study of the various aspects of the working of the National Book Trust between September, 1977 and July, 1978.

(b) to (d) The report submitted in July, 1978 has made recommendations inter alia on re-organisation of the Trust, streamlining the existing procedure of work in various sections conducting of marketing research which should lead to information for planning publication programmes, development of distribution services through conventional and non-conventional channels bringing out titles for specific target groups of neo-literates in rural areas, stepping up of publicity programmes in radio and film media, adoption of flexible system of pricing including dual pricing policy for new and developing areas, organising training programmes, providing financial incentives and awards to encourage authorship and setting up of regional offices. Out of 39 recommendations made in the report, 27 have been accepted and implemented, and 8 have been accepted in principle and are in various stages of implementation.